

The Arattukadavu-Todiyil canal passed through many *punja* fields in the Mavelikara and Kunnattur taluks and it was once very useful for traffic and irrigation. It was subsequently silted up and narrowed and had become quite unfit for either of the above purposes. If widened and deepened and steps taken to prevent silting up, it would be very useful for the adjacent wet lands. As a result of the representations made on the subject by the members for the Mavelikara taluk at previous sessions of the Assembly, some improvements had been carried out. But they were not sufficient. Further improvements should be carried out without delay and the canal made useful for irrigation.

Similarly, the Tazhakara, the Vettiyar and the Karingalichal canals had also become quite unfit for irrigation purposes. During the rainy season, the surplus water could not be drained away because the canals were silted up; and during the summer season, there was not sufficient water in them. These canals should be widened and deepened. It was gratifying to note that the Government had asked the Public Works Department to investigate the last mentioned canal. The works suggested should be put in hand soon.

Snake bites and deaths due to them were becoming daily occurrence in the Mavelikara taluk. There were expert *vishavaidyans* in the taluk and the chief among them *viz.*, Mr. M. Krishna Pillai of Tekkekara Velattandattu house had been maintaining a private *vaidyasala* for the past 30 years. He should be given a grant-in-aid from the Government for opening a *vishavaidyasala* at a convenient place.

Mavelikara was one of the foremost taluks of the State, and had the honour of being the birth place of the members of the Ruling Family. The Magistrate's Court established in the taluk for a very long time had been abolished. The file of the Kayankulam Magistrate was becoming heavier, and the litigant public were put to much hardship and difficulty. Either a Magistrate's Court should be established at Mavelikara or the local Tahsildar should be invested with magisterial powers.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhavan Menon, an estimate has been prepared by the Sub-Division officer for a bridge at Prayikara, and that is now being scrutinized by the Chief Engineer, and until he has finally passed the estimate and made recommendations, it will not be possible to sanction the commencement of the work.

The possibility of improving the Arattukadavu-Todiyil canal is being investigated. So too, the Tazhakara canal. The improvement has been sanctioned and provision made in the budget. The work is about to be commenced. As regards the Vettiyar canal, there is an estimate for Rs. 5,280 which is being scrutinized by the Chief Engineer. He will report on the matter to Government shortly.

As regards the Karingalichal canal there is an estimate for Rs. 10,000 and that is under consideration by the Government.

As to the *vishavaidyasala* I must wait and see what the Director of Ayurveda has to say about it.

In regard to the Magistrate's Court, the matter is under consideration. Time is not yet ripe for decision and you will be informed of it in due course.

109. Needs of the Mavelikara taluk.

MR. S. GOVINDAN NAMPUTIRI (*Member, Mavelikara taluk*) first spoke about the need for the establishment of a Girls' High School and a college at Mavelikara. It was a long-standing request of the local inhabitants. There were 15 High Schools and many Middle Schools in the taluks of Mavelikara, Kartikapalli, Karunagapalli, Chengannur and Tiruvalla. There were colleges in North and South Travancore but none in Central Travancore. Consequently, people in Central Travancore were denied the full benefits of collegiate education. They were put to great loss and inconvenience in sending students abroad. At least a Second Grade college should be opened at Mavelikara.

Except the Taluk Cutcherry and Police Station, all the public offices in the taluk were held in rented buildings and a sum of Rs. 1,500 was being annually spent for payment of rents. All the rented buildings were located in remote places and were inconvenient and incommodious for holding public offices. The Munsiff's Court

was the chief among the offices so held. It was located in the easternmost part of the town where there were no convenient places for the residence of vakils or officers and it was more than a mile away from the Taluk Cutcherry. The Taluk Cutcherry was situated so near the temple as not to be accessible to all classes of people. The building itself was dark and ill-ventilated. The Government had already acquired a site, 10 acres in extent, for erecting buildings for public offices and the plans had also been prepared but no further steps were taken. The buildings should be erected without delay.

Of the six District Courts in the State, Quilon had the largest number of Munsiffs' Courts subordinate to it *viz.*, 10, the total number of Munsiffs' Courts in the State being 36. Other District Courts had only 5 or 6 Munsiffs' Courts subordinate to them. Consequently, the Quilon District Court had the heaviest file. In view to cope with the heavy work thrown upon it, an additional bench and a third temporary bench had been opened at Quilon. Chengannur, Mavelikara, Adur, Krishnapuram and other places, included in the jurisdiction of the Quilon District Court, were 25 to 40 miles away. The member quoted statistics to show that about half the number of the cases filed in the District Court, Quilon, were from the above-mentioned places. There was therefore ample justification for opening a District Court at Mavelikara by transferring the third bench of the Quilon District Court there. The additional expenditure involved would not be large; and, even if it was, a benign Government solicitous of the people's welfare should not grudge that. If a District Court be established at Mavelikara, the jurisdiction over the Kartikapalli taluk should also be transferred to that court from the Alleppey District Court. The member recalled that there was a District Court at Mavelikara from 1987 M. E. and that the local inhabitants had submitted memorials to Her Highness the Maha Rani Regent and the Government on the subject.

Compound walls should be provided for the District Hospital and for the cemetery at Mavelikara. There were many in-patients in the hospital undergoing treatment for various diseases and it was hard that they should be disturbed and inconvenienced by lookers-on and passers-by. There were roads on two sides of the hospital and travellers rested in the hospital verandas and thereby contracted some of the contagious diseases. Dead bodies buried in the cemetery were sometimes exhumed by stray dogs and other carcass-eating animals and dragged to adjacent places to the great annoyance of the dwellers there. It was most deplorable especially when a re-burial was necessitated.

The following roads required metalling :—

- (1) The Tattarambalam-Mannar road.
- (2) The road north of the Valiaperumpuzha *kadavu*.
- (3) The Chennittala-Mannar road.

(4) The portion of the road north of Tattarambalam, usually submerged under water during the rainy season.

The last mentioned portion was being raised by earth work. It was not sufficient. It should be metalled.

Lastly, a road should be opened starting from Tattarambalam and leading to the *punja* fields to the north. There was formerly a road there, but it had been registered away to the adjacent landowner. There was no other way leading to the *punja* fields and therefore the road should be re-opened at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Govindan Namputiri, I do not know whether you want a college for boys or for girls at Mavelikara.

MEMBER: For boys.

DEWAN: I am afraid the Government are not going to make any increase in the number of colleges. But if you start a private college there I have not the slightest doubt that Government will give all the assistance they can.

As regards the High School for girls, the opening of the school has already been settled and the P. W. D. is busily engaged in preparing plans and estimates for the school building.

Then we come to the needs of Mavelikara. I do not know about any public offices that you want. That matter will be enquired into. But I may tell you my policy plainly and that is to put off building construction as much as possible and to spend as much as possible of the money we have on roads and bridges; when we have finished all roads and bridges then it will be time to put up pretty buildings. As for the District Court, the High Court are of opinion that at present there is no need for a Zilla Court at Mavelikara, and you must console yourself as best as you can with the High Court's opinion for the present.

I have no doubt the Chief Engineer will instruct his subordinates to investigate the question of both the opening of a path from the east of the *punja* lands near Tattarampalam and the metalling of the road from there to Mannar.

As for the wall for the cemetery—

MEMBER: Compound wall for the hospital also.

DEWAN: There is the estimate for the wall for the cemetery. As regards the compound wall for the hospital, that is also under examination. It is going to be an expensive business and you may take it that it will be completed, if at all, only in instalments.

As regards the last item, the Chief Engineer has instructed his subordinates to investigate it and he will submit his proposals shortly.

110. Needs of the Pattanamtitta taluk.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Member, Pattanamtitta taluk*) spoke about the need for the establishment of a Munsiff's Court at Pattanamtitta, which was a business centre. There were many banks, plantations, co-operative societies and *chitties* run by the local people. Under the existing arrangement, some *pakuthies* of the taluk were included in the jurisdiction of the Adur Munsiff's Court and others in that of the Chengannur Munsiff's Court. But on account of the absence of proper means of communication, the litigant public experienced great difficulty in going to Adur or Chengannur. Portions of the existing roads were under water during the rainy season; and further there were the Pamba and the Achenkovil rivers and the Kozhi *todu* to be crossed. The ferrymen at the crossings were not often found at their posts and consequently school-going children could not attend schools in time. The officers and the clientele public experienced the same difficulty. The member instanced the case of a man who in his anxiety to reach Chengannur a particular day for attending the Munsiff's Court actually began to swim across the Kozhi *todu* and in the attempt lost his life. When the matter was represented at the seventeenth session, the Dewan replied that the temporary Munsiff's Court at Kottarakara would be transferred to Pattanamtitta but eventually it was transferred to Perumbavur. In fixing the territorial jurisdiction of Munsiffs the High Court had not ascertained the wishes of the people. Ranni and other places included in the jurisdiction of the Chengannur Munsiff's Court were more than 45 miles away; and Konni, Kumbazha and other places included in the jurisdiction of the Adur Munsiff's Court were more than 35 miles away. On account of the improper distribution of jurisdiction, the Munsiffs at Adur and Changanachery had not sufficient work, while the Munsiffs at Tiruvalla and Chengannur were overworked. A Munsiff's Court should be opened at Pattanamtitta taluk with jurisdiction over Ranni, Cherukole, Mullapuzhasseri and Elantur *pakuthies* included in the jurisdiction of the Chengannur Munsiff's Court and over the Kumbazha, Pattanamtitta, Omallur and Vallikod *pakuthies* included in the jurisdiction of the Adur Munsiff's Court. The new court would have sufficient work as more than 800 small cause suits and 800 civil suits were filed from those eight *pakuthies*. The proposal would also have the effect of lightening the work of the Adur Munsiff but he could be invested with magisterial powers and thereby a long-felt want of the people of Adur removed.

The member prayed also for the opening of a First Class Magistrate's Court at Pattanamtitta.